

Amendments to the Drawings:

A new set of formal drawings (2 sheets, 2 figures) is submitted herewith to replace the drawings originally filed in this application. The new set of drawings is identical to the new set of drawings previously submitted in the parent application Serial No. 09/757,272, filed January 10, 2001 to this divisional application and is submitted to correct the informalities identified by the Examiner and comply with the Examiner's requirement for new drawings in the Office Action dated September 29, 2005

Attachment: Submission Of Formal Drawings document with 2 sheets of drawings

Remarks / Arguments:

Claims 1-9, 12 and 17 have been cancelled; Claims 10, 11, 14 and 15 have been amended and are believed to patentably define over the prior art of record as well as being in compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112; and new Claims 22-27 have been added which are believed to patentably define over the prior art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration is requested since none of the prior art discloses the present invention.

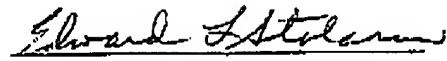
In response to the restriction requirement wherein the Examiner identified the following groups of claims as being separate inventions: Group I including Claims 1-9 drawn to an electro-spinning process, classified in class 264, subclass 452; and Group II including Claims 10-21 drawn to an electro-spinning apparatus, classified in class 425, subclass 174.8E. Applicant hereby elects to prosecute the Group II Claims 10-21, and to withdraw the Group I Claims 1-9 from further consideration. The election is made without traverse. As indicated above, applicant has cancelled Group I process Claims 1-9, inasmuch as these process claims were the subject of prosecution efforts in the parent application to this divisional application identified on page 2 herein.

Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 12 which the Examiner had indicated would be allowable if written in independent form. Accordingly, Claim 10 is considered patentable over the prior art of record. Claims 11, 13-16, and 18-22 depend from Claim 10 and are likewise considered allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 23 patentably defines over the prior art of record, either taken singly or in combination, in setting forth an electro spinning apparatus including an electrode means including at least three spaced apart ring electrodes, and means for applying a different electrical bias voltage to each of the three spaced apart ring electrodes for generating a sequentially biased electrostatic field along an intended direction of motion of polymer extrusion from the die orifice. None of the cited prior art references discloses or teaches the three spaced apart ring electrodes and the generation of a sequentially biased electrostatic field for producing a high quality solid filament having a uniform molecular orientation. Claims 24-27 depend from Claim 23 and are patentable for the reasons given in support of the patentability of Claim 23 as well as for the additional limitations of structure recited therein. Claim 24 recites the ring electrodes to have a concentric axis; Claim 25 recites the die orifice and ring electrodes to be in substantial vertical alignment; and Claim 26 (which depends from Claim 25) and Claim 27 (which depends from Claim 23) specifies the means for applying a different bias voltage to each of the ring electrodes to include a voltage supply and a plurality of voltage divider resistors.

For the above reasons, Claims 10, 11, 13-16 and 18-27 are believed allowable over the prior art of record and an early notice to such effect is solicited.

February 28, 2006



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/697,283 Confirmation No. 8443
Applicant : James Kleinmeyer et al
Filed : October 31, 2003
Title : ELECTRO SPINNING OF SUBMICRON DIAMETER
POLYMER FILAMENTS

TC/AU : 1722
Examiner : Joseph S. Del Sole
Docket No. : ARL 00-17 D1
Customer No. : 21364


Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

SUBMISSION OF FORMAL DRAWINGS

A new set of formal drawings (2 sheets, 2 figures) is submitted herewith to replace the drawings originally filed in this application. This set of formal drawings is intended to correct the informalities which were the basis for the Examiner's objections to the originally filed drawings and requirement for new corrected drawings.

Please cancel the set of drawings originally filed in this application.

February 28, 2006


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